

WARS AS FACTORS CAUSING STARVATION AND MALNUTRITION

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Abstract

The war is one of the heaviest anthropogenic disasters. Such disasters cause a large number of human casualties and cause heavy material loss. Starvation and insufficient nutrition are among the most serious problems that accompany all wars. In such circumstances, farming and food production can suffer huge losses: existing infrastructure such as food warehouses, shops, supply chains, etc., can be destroyed. Foodstuffs might be contaminated with pathogenic microorganisms, radioactive isotopes, chemical warfare agents, etc. Sometimes millions of people suffer and die due to such cases. The purpose of this report is to provide some examples on human and animal starvation regarding wars and to analyze the reasons behind such severe consequences with some suggestions for ensuring food safety during disaster events.

A retrospective and content analysis on scientific articles was carried out. The wars are the reasons for starvation and malnutrition. The usage of weapons of mass destruction can kill many animals and contaminate food for humans and animals with radioactive, chemical and biological substances. There are many examples from previous literature articles showing that starvation and insufficient nutrition are very serious problems during the war for both humans and animals, as for example, the wars in: Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and Ethiopia, Angola, Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq. Many people die of hunger, but also a lot of animals used for war purposes are affected by starvation as well. The death of a large number of farm animals - cows, sheep, pigs and others is also a cause of starvation of human population.

The hunger and malnutrition are unavoidable consequences during wars. The analysis of these problems from past disasters has made it possible to develop adequate measures to overcome food shortages and reduce the number of human and animal victims.

Key words: *Disaster, Nutrition, Starvation, Preparedness, Food safety.*